

Archeological Testing for the  
Proposed Location of a Loafing Shed  
Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

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## SUMMARY

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site has proposed construction of a loafing shed for horses in support of a field leasing program. The site of the proposed loafing shed, west of Bethesda Church and adjacent to an unnamed branch of Baptism Creek, was tested for the presence of archeological resources. Six shovel tests indicated that no archeological resources were present and that construction of the shed would have no effect on National Register eligible archeological properties.

## INTRODUCTION

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site preserves and commemorates the structural and archeological remains of the early industrial endeavors and the communities which supported them in late eighteenth through the early twentieth century (Figure.1). Hopewell Furnace, operating from 1771 through 1883 was typical of the many furnaces and communities which formed the pattern of early industry, especially in eastern Pennsylvania. These patterns, formed of an industrial complex and full-time attached workers and their families extended into the surrounding landscape to include raw material catchments for fuel and ore, agricultural production, and transportation nets. In addition, many of the surrounding farms provided food, fuel, and part-time labor to the furnace community. Although extensive documentary and archeological evidence for the furnace and the attached community remains, the outlying community patterns and dispersed industry-related activities, especially archeological evidence, is minimal. Prehistoric occupation of the current parkland is unknown.

Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site is managed to maintain the rural atmosphere of the nineteenth-century on the land surrounding the furnace and core community. To accomplish this efficiently, agricultural leases have been established with adjacent landowners. One such leaseholder, located adjacent to Bethesda Church, has requested to construct an enclosure for livestock on the northern margin of the historic field (Figure 2). This enclosure would be constructed of wood, measuring thirty by fifteen feet, secured by vertical posts on an elevated base of gravel. The historic field is located on the Neiting Tract, acquired by the owners of Hopewell Furnace in 1919, and was historically used for farming. Because this location had not been surveyed for archeological resources, and the potential significance of any resources to the historical (and Prehistoric), archeological testing of the proposed project location was recommended by the author. Testing was conducted, again by the author, on July 16 and 18, 1996.

## FIELDWORK

Six shovel tests were excavated at the proposed location of the loafing shed and the adjacent field (Figure 3). All excavated soil was screened through onequarter inch hardware cloth.

Stratigraphy across the entire area consisted initially of a layer of dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam from the surface to 0.2 feet below surface (Stratum 1). Beneath this was a plow zone composed of brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam to an average depth of 1 foot below surface (Stratum 2). Beneath the plowzone was yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR 5/4) sandy clay (Stratum 3). Stratigraphic descriptions of each test is presented in Appendix 1. The field appears to have been plowed another 30 feet or so past the proposed location of the loafing shed; no wetland soils Historic Site. were

identified even though the stream is located around 100 feet to the north.

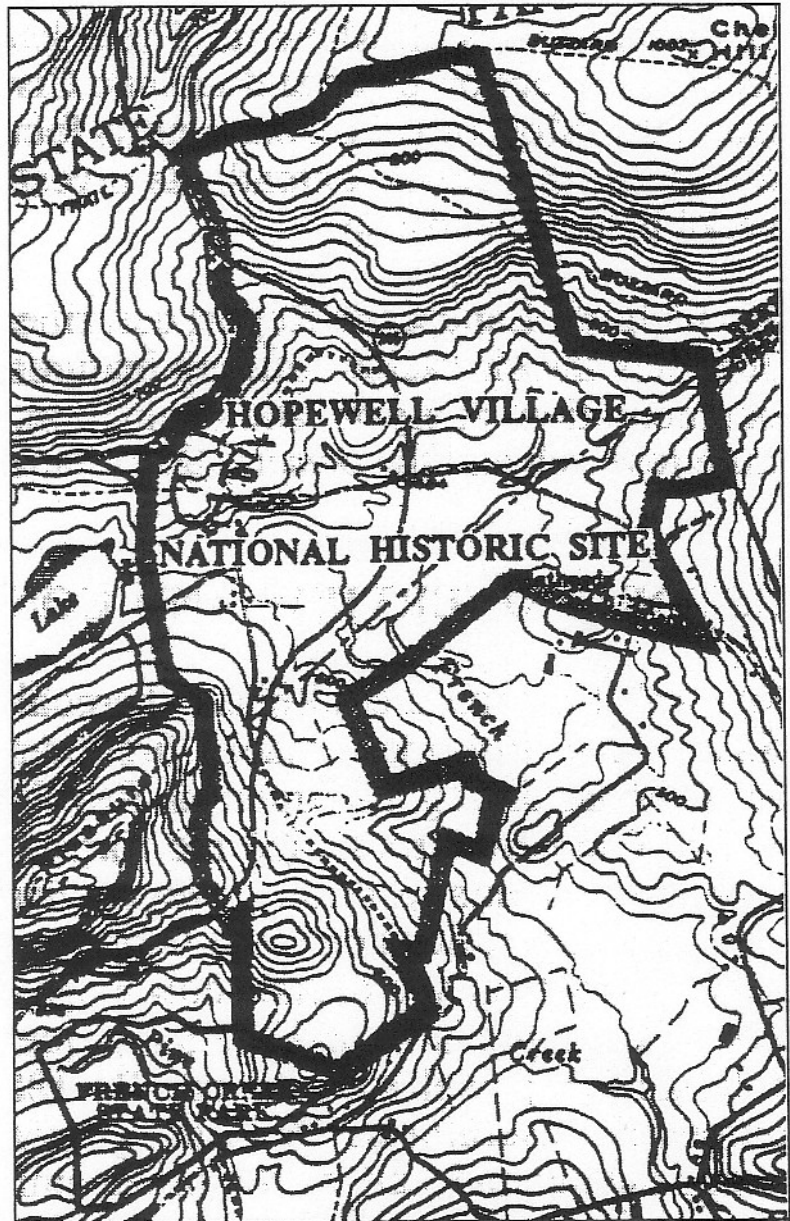


Figure 1: Project location.

No artifacts were recovered from any of the tests and no archeological features were identified.

The results of the six tests indicated that the proposed project will have no effect on the archeological resources at Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site.

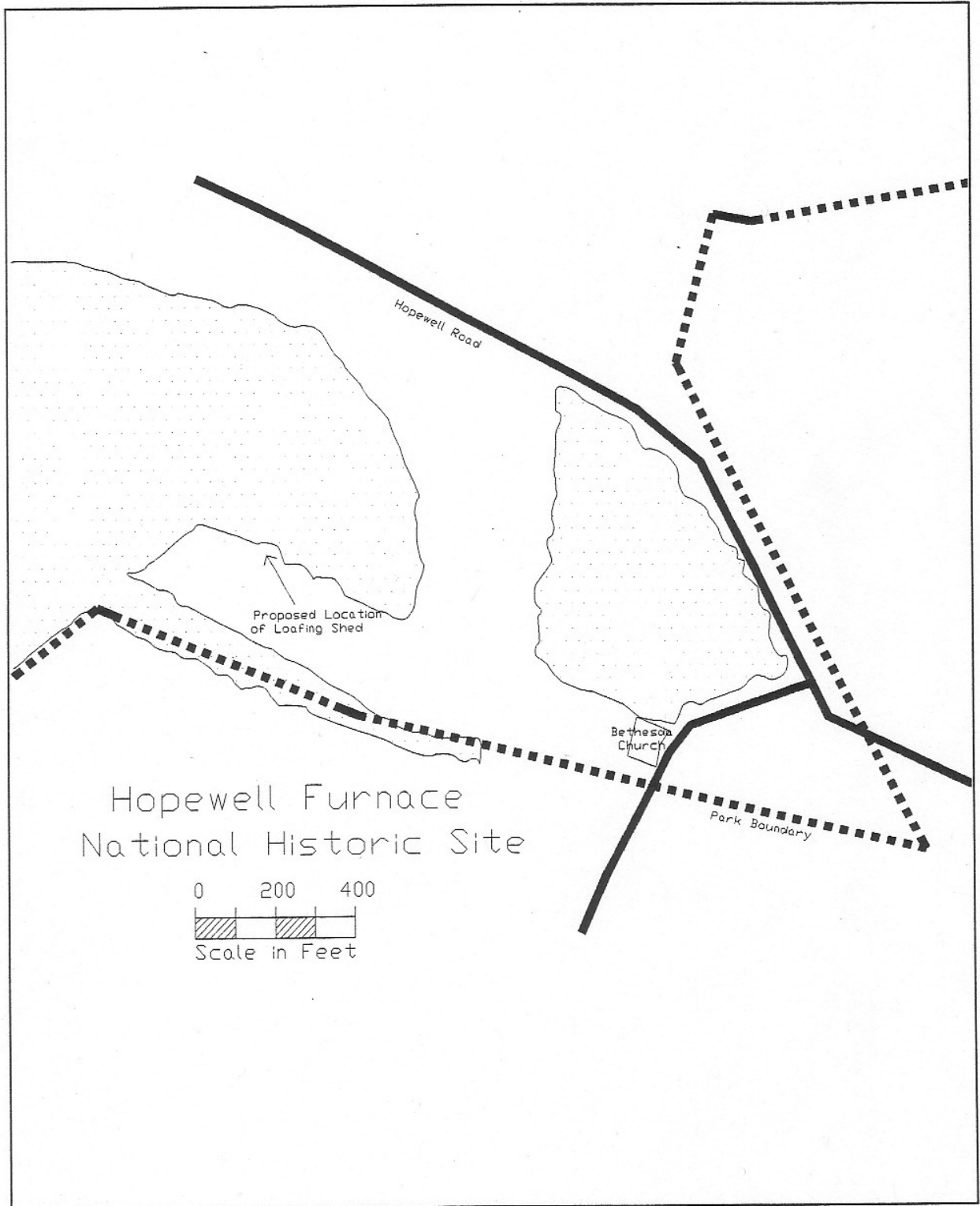


Figure 2: Project location.

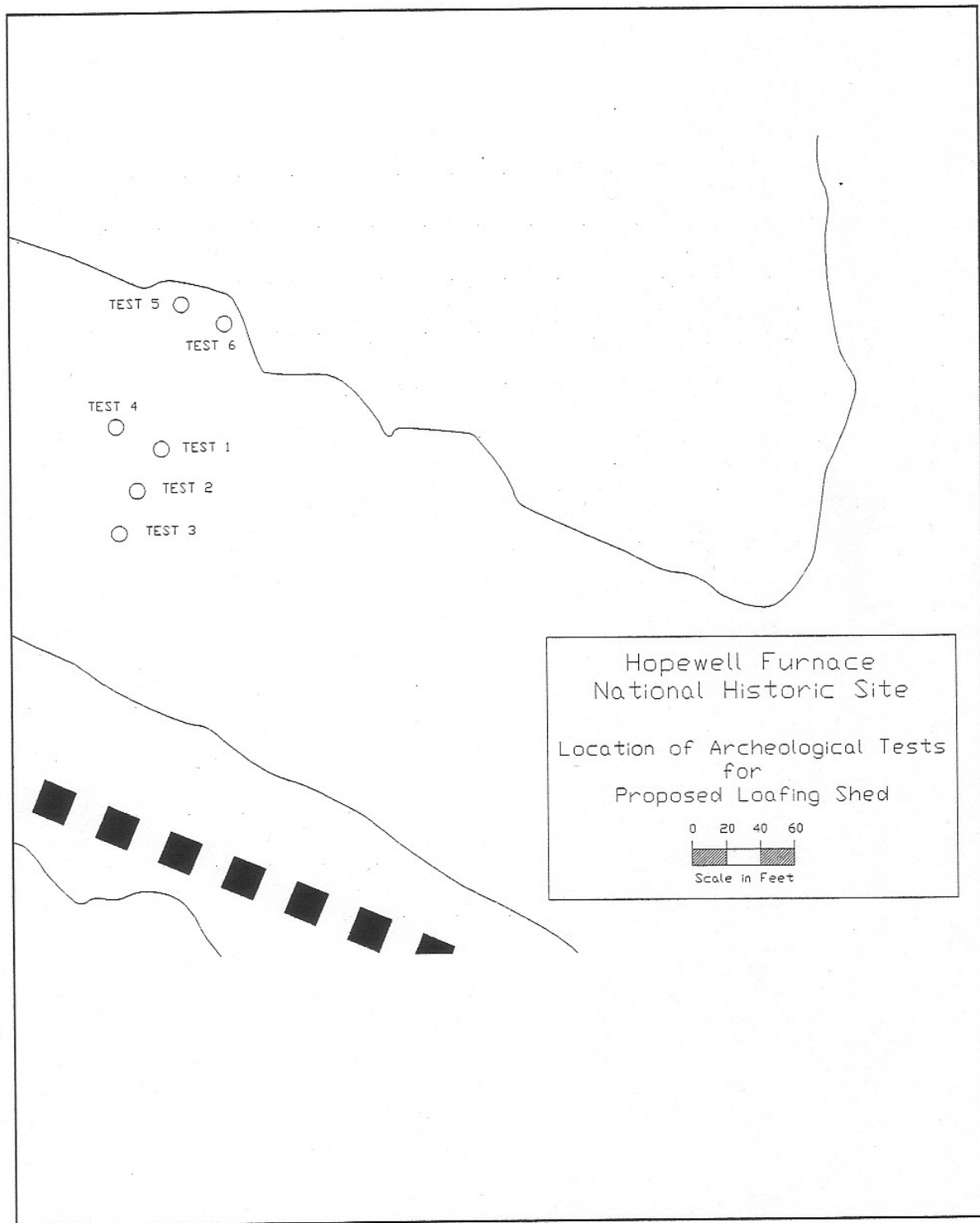


Figure 3: Location of archeological tests.

## APPENDIX 1

Test 1 is located 70 feet south of the fenceline (from the easternmost stake). It has three strata:

Stratum 1: 0 - 0.2 feet: dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam.

Stratum 2: 0.2 - 0.95 feet: brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam (plowzone).

Stratum 3: 0.95 - 1.5+ feet: yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR 5/4) sandy clay.

Test 2 is located 95 feet south of the fence line and 25 feet south of Test 1. It contains the following strata:

Stratum 1: 0 - 0.2 feet: dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam.

Stratum 2: 0.2 - 0.9 feet: brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam (plowzone).

Stratum 3: 0.9 - 1.5+ feet: yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR 5/4) sandy clay.

Stratum 2 contained a layer of densely packed, medium-sized (between 0.4 and 0.8 foot diameter) stones at its base.

Test 3 is located 25 feet south of Test 2, or 120 feet south of the fence and contains three strata:

Stratum 1: 0 - 0.2 feet: dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam.

Stratum 2: 0.2 - 0.8 feet: brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam (plowzone).

Stratum 3: 0.8 - 1.3+ feet: yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR 5/4) sandy clay.

Test 5 is located at the northwest corner of the proposed shed. It contained three strata:

Stratum 1: 0 - 0.2 feet: dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam.

Stratum 2: 0.2 - 0.8 feet: brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam (plowzone).

Stratum 3: 0.8 - 1.1+ feet: yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR

Test 6 is located at the northeast corner of the proposed loafing shed and contained three strata:

Stratum 1: 0 - 0.2 feet: dark grayish brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/2) sandy loam.

Stratum 2: 0.2 - 0.8 feet: brown (Munsell color 10YR 4/3) sandy loam (plowzone).

Stratum 3: 0.8 - 1.2+ feet: yellowish brown (Munsell color 10YR

This test is 13.5 feet north of the fence.